

Message Text

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ACTION IO-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OCON, WFC

SUBJECT: WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, NOVEMBER 5-16, 1974

1. COMMITTEE I: NOVEMBER 9 SESSION. PRACTICALLY ENTIRE DAY DEVOTED TO DISCUSSION AGENDA ITEM III: FERTILIZER (WITH SHORT DISCUSSION AT END ON AGENDA ITEM 9(B), MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPED COUNTRIES).

2. ABOUT 50 COUNTRIES AND ORGANIZATIONS SPOKE ON FERTILIZER RESOLUTION. MEXICO AND SRI LANKA PRESENTED NEW DRAFT RESOLUTIONS. SRI LANKA RESOLUTION (1) CALLS FOR IMMEDIATE ESTABLISHMENT OF A SUBSIDIARY BODY OF ECOSOC TO BE CALLED THE "WORLD FERTILIZER FUND" TO COORDINATE ALL ASPECTS OF WORLD FERTILIZER POLICY; (2) RECOMMENDS THAT ECOSOC APPOINT A COMMITTEE TO ESTABLISH DETAILED TERMS OF REFERENCE TOGETHER WITH RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS AND (3) URGES WORLD FERTILIZER FUND, WHICH WILL HAVE "ADVISORY AND EXECUTIVE POWERS" TO ESTABLISH LINKS WITH THE INTER-

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NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL FUND IF IT IS ESTABLISHED TO FINANCE

FERTILIZER INDUSTRY.

3. MEXICAN RESOLUTION BASICALLY THE SAME AS SECRETARIAT'S EXCEPT THAT IT URGES MULTILATERAL AND BILATERAL PROGRAMS TO GIVE A "HIGHER" PRIORITY TO FERTILIZER ASSISTANCE AND GIVES GREATER EMPHASIS TO MORE EFFICIENT MARKETING, DISTRIBUTION AND USE OF FERTILIZERS.

4. MOST COUNTRIES GENERALLY SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT RESOLUTION BUT WITH PERFECTING AMENDMENTS. (PAKISTAN, INDIA, AND BANGLADESH SUPPORTED SRI LANKA PROPOSAL.)

5. US SUPPORTED SECRETARIAT RESOLUTION AND EMPHASIZED NEED TO DISTINGUISH BETWEEN SHORT AND LONG-TERM ASPECTS OF PROBLEM. IN SHORT RUN MUST INCREASE UTILIZATION OF EXISTING PLANT CAPACITY AND REDUCE NON-CRITICAL USES OF FERTILIZER. ON LATTER POINT INTRODUCED AMENDMENT PROPOSED BY SENATOR HUMPHREY AND AGREED TO BY DELEGATION AS FOLLOWS:
"RECOMMENDS THAT EACH MAJOR, FERTILIZER-CONSUMING NATION CALL UPON ITS CITIZENS VOLUNTARILY TO REDUCE NON-CRITICAL USES OF FERTILIZER TOWARD MAKING AVAILABLE MORE FERTILIZER FOR FOOD PRODUCTION."

6. ON LONGER TERM PROBLEM US PARTICULARLY EMPHASIZED NEED TO INCREASE RESEARCH AND URGED OTHER NATIONS TO JOIN IN EFFORT TO ESTABLISH PLANT NUTRITION CENTER.

7. SEVERAL NATIONS SUGGESTED THAT SRI LANKA PROPOSAL BE CONSIDERED LATER IN CONTEXT OF FOLLOW-UP MECHANISM.

8. LATE IN DAY COMMITTEE TURNED TO ITEM 9(B), MEASURES FOR INCREASING FOOD PRODUCTION IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES. ALGERIANS PROPOSED RESOLUTION ALONG FOLLOWING LINES:
"CONSIDERING WORLD FOOD SECURITY SHOULD...FOSTER ACCELERATION OF THE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN THE CONTEXT OF THE NEW INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC ORDER..., CALLS ON DEVELOPED COUNTRIES TO BEND EVERY EFFORT TO CONTRIBUTE TO WAR ON HUNGER AND MALNUTRITION IN COMING DECADE SO NO HUMAN BEING NEED GO HUNGRY, AND REQUESTS EXECUTIVE HEADS OF INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS, PARTICULARLY FAO, TO PRESENT TO LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE 59TH MEETING OF ECOSOC AN OPERATIONAL PROGRAM FOR THIS PURPOSE...
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9. ONLY A FEW COUNTRIES SPOKE IN SHORT TIME REMAINING BUT MOST URGED CLOSE COORDINATION THIS ITEM WITH AGENDA ITEM 9(A) AND WORK OF COMMITTEES 2 AND 3.

10. COMMENT. SRI LANKA PROPOSAL SETS UP BODY DUPLICATING

FUNCTIONS OF FAO FERTILIZER COMMISSION. NOT REALLY FUND
BUT CALLED THAT SO IT WOULD APPEAR THAT PROPOSAL LAST WINTER
BY THEIR PRESIDENT HAD BEEN ADOPTED. WE SEE NO REASON FOR
NEW BODY AND WILL OPPOSE. VOLPE

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